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extracts from  
**Little Collectors: Animal Art**

Written & Illustrated by  
**Jenny Bowers**

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# SEASON SIGNS

Every season has its own sights and sounds to seek out.

## SPRING

Can you spot the first orange tip butterfly or seven-spotted ladybug, hear the first cuckoo singing or woodpecker drumming in the trees.

Birds sing a lot in spring trying to attract a mate—the dawn chorus can be really loud!

Which bird wakes up first?

**COLOR THE TREE IN SEASONAL COLORS.**

## WINTER

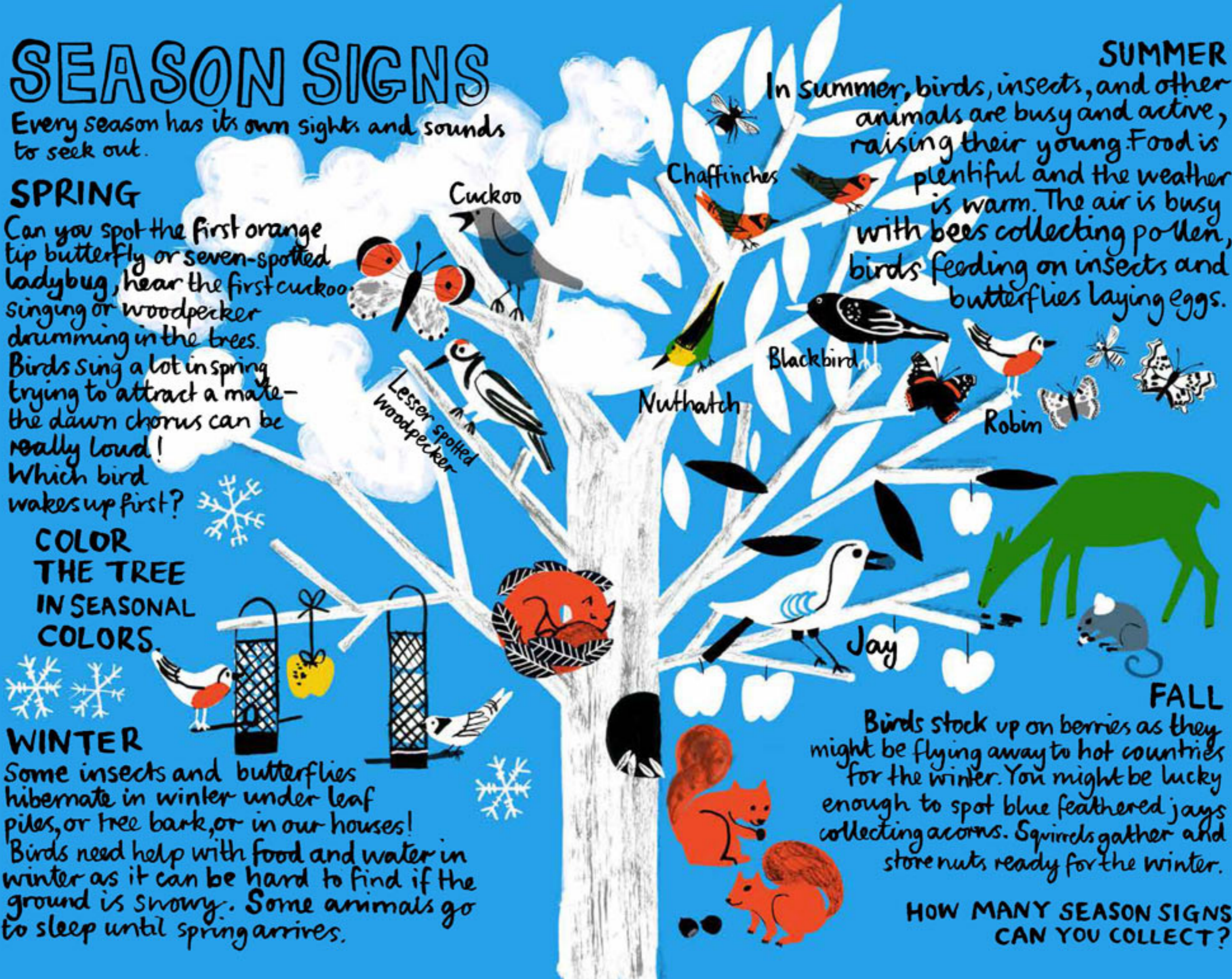
Some insects and butterflies hibernate in winter under leaf piles, or tree bark, or in our houses!

Birds need help with food and water in winter as it can be hard to find if the ground is snowy. Some animals go to sleep until spring arrives.




**SUMMER**  
In summer, birds, insects, and other animals are busy and active, raising their young. Food is plentiful and the weather is warm. The air is busy with bees collecting pollen, birds feeding on insects and butterflies laying eggs.

**FALL**  
Birds stock up on berries as they might be flying away to hot countries for the winter. You might be lucky enough to spot blue feathered jays collecting acorns. Squirrels gather and store nuts ready for the winter.

**HOW MANY SEASON SIGNS CAN YOU COLLECT?**



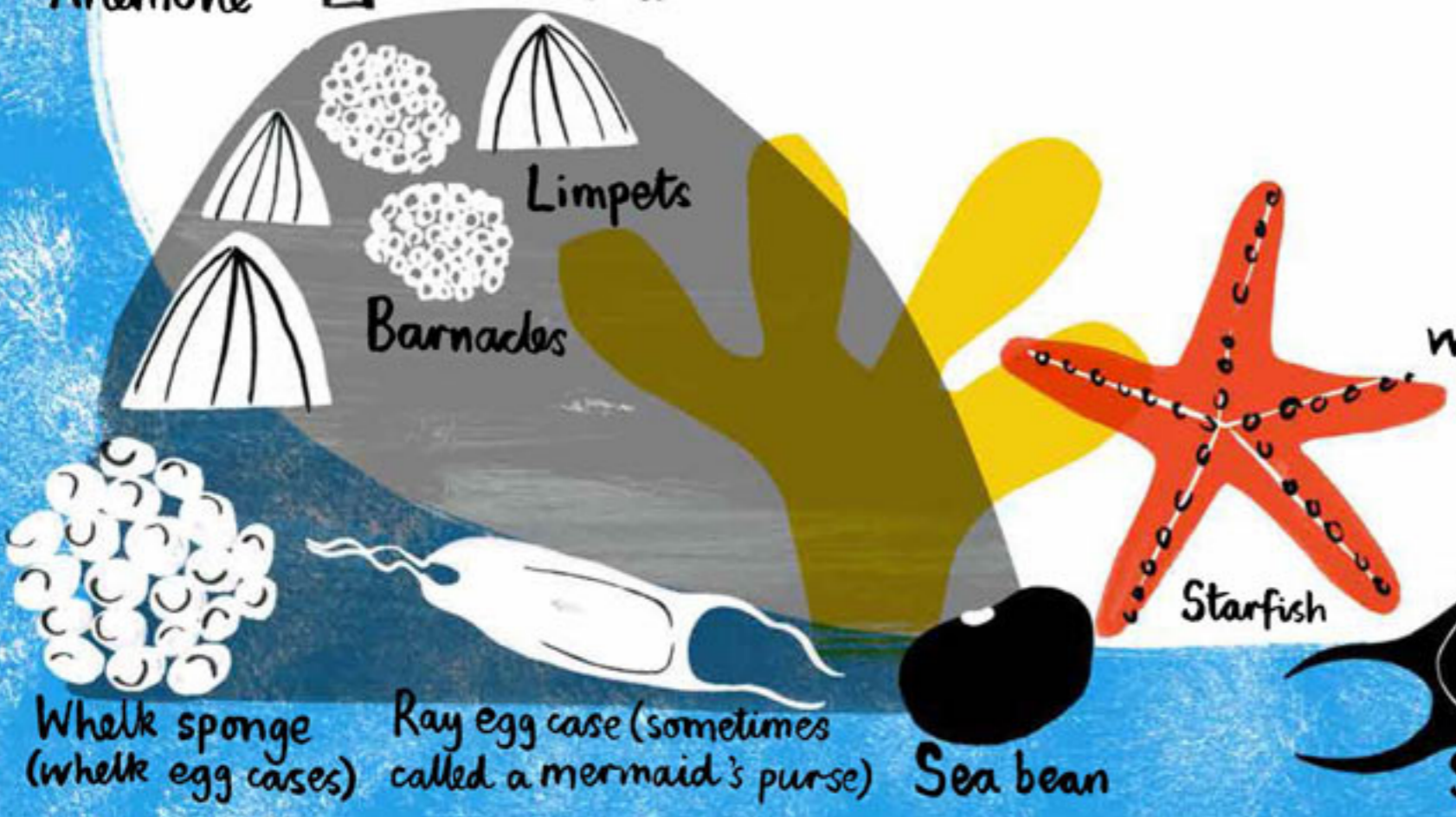
# ROCKPOOLS + BEACHCOMBING

- Seaweed
  - Barnacles
  - Sea snails
  - Limpets
  - Mussels
  - Starfish
  - Anemone
- 
- Blennie
- 
- Crab
- 
- Sea urchin case

Take your book to the beach and do some spotting! Use the checklist and draw things that you spot in your rockpool here:



**Home Beach:**  
Comb the beach for patterned shells, interesting pebbles, empty crab shells, driftwood and dry seaweed. When you get home fill an old tray with play sand to make your own beach.



# FOSSILS



Have you ever picked up a piece of rock and found a shape in it? It might have been a fossil. Fossils are the remains of plants or creatures that have died, been squashed and preserved in rock over many, many years.

You can collect fossils in lots of different places. One good place is the beach. Some fossils will be hidden inside rocks, but others may be exposed just waiting to be found by you.



Add your own fossils to this rock

**FOSSILS YOU MIGHT COLLECT:** Keep your eyes open!

## AMMONITES:

Ammonites are spiral shaped and related to squids and octopuses. They can range in size from a small rock to a large boulder and might be between 200 and 65 million years old. WOW!



## TRILOBITES:

Trilobites look a bit like big woodlice. They are related to crabs and are about the same size. They might be between 250 and 540 million years old.



## SHARK TEETH:

Sharks are ancient animals. You don't find fossilized shark bones as they are made of cartilage which rots away. Instead you might find shark teeth. If you find one you might collect more as sharks have lots of teeth!

## HOMEMADE FOSSILS:

You can preserve your precious things by making your own fossils from them.



1. Use a piece of air drying clay.



2. Press it into a shape to suit your chosen object.



3. Press your object firmly into the clay, then remove and leave to dry.

